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Victoria started with private companies. The government at first made land grants, which, however, proved unavailing. Then it attempted the guarantee of dividends. This also turned out to be unsuccessful, and the next step was the construction of new lines by the state. The management of the existing lines was still entrusted to private companies, but the sad experiences with this plan, together with other causes, finally brought about, in 1868, the period of state ownership and management throughout Australia. Dr. Kandt betrays a youthful energy in swelling the bulk of his work, and goes rather far afield occasionally, as in his unnecessary chapters on the early history of Australia and Victoria, and the unduly comprehensive bibliography. But to those who know how to separate the wheat from the chaff the book will be a really valuable acquisition. In the succeeding monograph the author proposes to describe the recent history and present working of the Australian railways.

E. R. A. S.

Histoire de la Participation de la France à l'Établissement des États-Unis d'Amérique. Par HENRI DONIOL. Tome cinquième. Paris, 1892. — 4to, 721 pp.

The eight chapters that, together with documents and correspondence, compose this volume, complete the author's monumental work on the French intervention in the affairs of America in support of the independence of the United States. At this stage of the subject we are brought to the consideration of the treaty of peace and of the relation of France to that transaction. It is well known that the instructions of the American commissioners directed them to carry on their negotiations with England in concert and coöperation with the government of France. By the treaty of alliance of 1778 between the United States and France, it was provided that neither party should conclude "either truce or peace with Great Britain without the formal consent of the other first obtained." The American commissioners, however, concluded the preliminary articles of peace (which were afterward turned into a definitive treaty) without consultation with the French government. This proceeding led Vergennes, when he became cognizant of what had taken place, to indulge in strong reproaches. "I am at a loss, sir," he said, in a letter to Franklin,

to explain your conduct and that of your colleagues on this occasion. You have concluded your preliminary articles without any communication

between us, although the instructions from Congress prescribe that nothing shall be done without the participation of the king. You are about to hold out a certain hope of peace to America without even informing yourself on the state of the negotiation on our part. . . . I am not desirous of enlarging on these reflections; I commit them to your own integrity.

Franklin's reply to this note is one of the most skillful and adroit compositions to be found in the records of diplomacy. Nothing has been agreed in the preliminaries, he says, contrary to the interests of France; yet the American commissioners have, he admits, "been guilty of neglecting a point of *bienséance*." This he hopes the king will excuse, so that the great work, so nearly brought to perfection, may not be "ruined by a single indiscretion of ours." Moreover, the English, he "just now" learns, "*flatter themselves they have already divided us*." He therefore hopes that "this little misunderstanding" will be "kept a secret, and that they will find themselves totally mistaken." This letter of Franklin's was not only skillful and adroit, but it was magnanimous; for it was owing to the position of Adams and Jay that the negotiations were kept a secret from the King of France and his ministers.

The position of Adams and Jay, and their intense suspicion of the French court, forewarn us of the temporary character of the French alliance. Up to the declaration of independence they were British subjects, with all the prejudice that that fact then implied against France and her government. And now, as peace approaches, the old feelings revive, and they are distrustful, not of the British, their enemy, but of the French, their ally. "Mr. Jay," says John Adams in his diary, under the date of November 5, 1782, "likes Frenchmen as little as Mr. Lee and Mr. Izard did. He says they are not a moral people; they know not what it is; he don't like any Frenchman; the Marquis de Lafayette is clever, but he is a Frenchman." This entry was made only a week before the signature of the preliminary articles of peace.

Among the circumstances that inflamed this instinctive prejudice of Adams and Jay and aroused violent suspicions on their part as to the good faith of the French court, perhaps the most important was a visit paid by Rayneval, of the French foreign office, to England, in September, 1782. Rayneval went as the agent of Vergennes, and between the 13th and the 20th of September he had various conferences with Lord Shelburne and Lord Grantham. Mr. Jay suspected, and Mr. Adams shared his suspicions, that the object of Rayneval's mission was to retard the acknowledgment by Great Britain of

American independence, and to defeat the concession of the claims of the United States as to the fisheries. Doniol lays before us the complete text, which Sparks saw in the French archives, of Rayneval's confidential reports to Vergennes of his conferences. They contain little on American questions; but they show, as Doniol says, the scrupulous loyalty of Louis XVI and Vergennes in their conduct toward the United States. In his first conference with Lord Shelburne, Rayneval, in conformity with his instructions, declared that the recognition of the independence of the United States "without restriction" was an essential condition of negotiation, which must be considered as agreed upon; and subsequently he refused, again in conformity with his instructions, to discuss the claims of the United States to the fisheries, in regard to which he was not authorized to treat.

A collection is printed in this volume of the correspondence of Count Rochambeau from the beginning of his command in the United States to the end of the campaign in Virginia.

J. B. MOORE.

Town Life in the Fifteenth Century. By MRS. J. R. GREEN.
New York and London, Macmillan & Co., 1894.—xiv, 441, 476 pp.

A good history of English boroughs has long been needed. The works of Brady, Madox, Merewether-Stephens and Thompson are fragmentary, unscholarly or antiquated. Mrs. Green attempts, in a measure, to supply this want; her work really deals with the history of English boroughs from the Norman conquest to the close of the middle ages. In the first volume she considers the external relations of the towns to the king or manorial lord; the second is devoted mainly to the internal development of municipal government. She has made little use of the manuscripts in the town archives, but she has turned to account most of the material in print. This material, though only a fragment compared with what remains unprinted, is quite abundant, and the references in Mrs. Green's foot-notes show that during the past ten or fifteen years many of the muniments buried in local repositories have been made accessible to the historical student.

The main defect of her work is that it either presents isolated pictures of the development of particular towns, or goes to the other extreme of making broad generalizations based on meagre data. We have thus a combination of the methods and the defects of Thompson on the one hand and Merewether-Stephens on the other,